

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for providing an interactive music interface, the method
2 comprising:
3 providing an interactive program guide (IPG) page having included therein
4 a music icon representative of a topic of music;
5 receiving a selection for the music icon; and
6 providing the music interface page having included therein a listing of
7 music channels.

1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 receiving an indication that a particular music channel has been selected;
3 retrieving an audio stream associated with the selected music channel; and
4 processing the retrieved audio stream.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the particular music channel is selected
2 via depression of a particular key.

1 4. The method of claim 2, wherein the particular music channel is selected
2 by movement of a cursor over the music channel.

1 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 receiving an indication that a particular music channel has been
3 highlighted;
4 retrieving an audio stream associated with the highlighted music channel;
5 and
6 processing the retrieved audio stream.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the particular music channel is
2 highlighted by movement of a cursor over the music channel.

1 7. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
2 retrieving a data stream associated with the selected music channel;

3 decoding the data stream to retrieve descriptive information for the
4 selected music channel; and
5 providing the descriptive information.

1 8. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
2 retrieving a video stream associated with the selected music channel;
3 decoding the retrieved video stream; and
4 providing decoded video for the selected music channel.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the music interface page includes a
2 plurality of display regions, wherein the selected music channel is included in a music
3 channel listing that is displayed in a first display region, and wherein the decoded video is
4 displayed in a second display region.

1 10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 retrieving one or more objects used to identify the music interface page;
3 and
4 providing the retrieved objects at particular locations of the music interface
5 page.

1 11. An interactive music interface page comprising:
2 one or more display regions configurable to display a listing of a plurality
3 of music channels; and
4 a channel description region configurable to display information for a
5 particular music channel in the listing.

1 12. The music interface page of claim 11, wherein the music interface
2 page includes two display regions located side by side to provide two columns of music
3 channel listing.

1 13. The music interface page of claim 11, wherein each display region is
2 configurable to display a video in place of the music channel listing previously displayed
3 in the display region.

1 14. The music interface page of claim 13, wherein the video is associated
2 with the particular music channel.

1 15. The music interface page of claim 13, wherein the video is encoded as
2 slices via slice-based encoding.

1 16. The music interface page of claim 11, wherein each display region
2 includes a background comprised of strips of alternating colors.

1 17. The music interface page of claim 16, wherein the background of
2 strips is composed as a bitmap.

1 18. The music interface page of claim 16, wherein the bitmap for the
2 background is pre-loaded to a set top terminal.

1 19. The music interface page of claim 11, further comprising:
2 a header region configurable to display one or more objects identifying the
3 music interface page.

1 20. The music interface page of claim 19, wherein at least one object in
2 the header region is associated with a video.

1 21. The music interface page of claim 20, wherein the video is used to
2 provide animation of the associated object.

1 22. The music interface page of claim 19, wherein at least one object in
2 the header region is composed as a bitmap.

1 23. The music interface page of claim 22, wherein the bitmap for each of
2 the at least one object is encoded and sent via an in-band channel or an out-of-band
3 channel.

1 24. The music interface page of claim 11, wherein text descriptive of the
2 music channels in the listing is composed as a bitmap.

1 25. The music interface page of claim 24, wherein the bitmap for the text
2 of the music channels is encoded and sent via an out-of-band channel.

1 26. The music interface page of claim 24, wherein the bitmap for the text
2 of the music channels is encoded and sent via an in-band channel.

1 27. The music interface page of claim 11, wherein text descriptive of the
2 music channels in the listing is coded as slices via slice-based encoding.

1 28. An interactive user interface for a terminal coupled to a server via a
2 distribution network, the user interface comprising:
3 a program guide including one or more guide pages rendered and encoded
4 at the server; and
5 a music interface linked to the program guide and including at least one
6 music interface page constructed at the terminal.

1 29. The interactive user interface of claim 28, wherein the at least one
2 music page is constructed using low-bandwidth data received from the server by the
3 terminal.

1 30. The interactive user interface of claim 29, wherein the low-bandwidth
2 data is transmitted via an out-of-band channel of the distribution network.

1 31. The interactive user interface of claim 28, wherein the at least one
2 music page comprises a striped background.

1 32. The interactive user interface of claim 31, wherein the striped
2 background is pre-loaded to the terminal.

1 33. The interactive user interface of claim 31, wherein the terminal
2 overlays text within stripes of the striped background to create listings of available music
3 content.

1 34. The interactive user interface of claim 28, further comprising:
2 a link within the at least one music interface page to provide an electronic
3 commerce opportunity to purchase music content.

1 35. A set top terminal (STT) for receiving programming guide data,
2 comprising:
3 a demodulator operative to receive a modulated signal and generate a
4 transport stream;
5 a transport de-multiplexer coupled to the demodulator and operative to
6 receive and process the transport stream to provide a plurality of elementary streams; and
7 a decoder coupled to the transport de-multiplexer and operative to
8 decode a first elementary stream to generate an interactive program
9 guide (IPG) page having included therein a music icon representative of a topic of
10 music,
11 provide the IPG page for display,
12 receive a selection for the music icon, and
13 provide a music interface page having included therein a listing of
14 music channels.

1 36. The STT of claim 35, wherein the decoder is further operative to
2 receive an indication that a particular music channel has been selected,
3 retrieve an audio stream associated with the selected music channel, and
4 process the retrieved audio stream.

1 37. The STT of claim 36, wherein the decoder is further operative to
2 retrieve a data stream associated with the selected music channel,
3 decode the data stream to retrieve descriptive information for the selected
4 music channel, and
5 provide the descriptive information.

1 38. The STT of claim 36, wherein the decoder is further operative to
2 retrieve a video stream associated with the selected music channel,
3 decode the retrieved video stream, and
4 provide decoded video for the selected music channel.